

**House File 2142 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2142

BY M. SMITH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to reimbursement of certain mental health  
2 and substance-related disorder service providers under  
3 the medical assistance program's managed care or prepaid  
4 services contracts and including effective date provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 249A.4, Code 2014, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. *a.* Ensure that the terms of any  
4 contract for managed care or prepaid services for mental  
5 health or substance-related disorders under the Medicaid  
6 program shall provide reimbursement for the mental health or  
7 substance-related disorder services provided by a mental health  
8 professional within the professional's scope of practice.

9 *b.* Ensure that the terms of any contract for managed care  
10 or prepaid services for substance-related disorders under  
11 the Medicaid program shall provide reimbursement for the  
12 services provided by a person who holds a temporary license in  
13 mental health counseling and is providing services through a  
14 substance-related disorder program licensed under chapter 125.

15 *c.* For the purposes of this subsection, "*mental health*  
16 *professional*" means the same as defined in section 228.1 and  
17 "*temporary license in mental health counseling*" means the same  
18 as described in section 154D.7.

19 Sec. 2. CONTRACT AMENDMENT. The department of human  
20 services shall amend its contracts for managed care or prepaid  
21 services for mental health and substance-related disorders  
22 under the Medicaid program in existence as of the effective  
23 date of this Act to implement the requirements of section  
24 249A.4, subsection 16, as enacted by this Act, and the  
25 amendments shall take effect on or before July 1, 2014.

26 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of  
27 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill relates to reimbursement of certain mental health  
32 and substance-related disorder service providers under the  
33 medical assistance (Medicaid) program's managed care or prepaid  
34 services contracts.

35 Code section 249A.4, relating to the duties of the

1 director of human services under the Medicaid Code chapter, is  
2 amended. The director is required to ensure that the terms  
3 of such contracts for mental health or substance-related  
4 disorders provide reimbursement for the mental health or  
5 substance-related disorder services provided by a mental health  
6 professional within the professional's scope of practice. In  
7 addition, the director must ensure that such terms provide  
8 reimbursement for the services provided by a person who holds a  
9 temporary license in mental health counseling and is providing  
10 services through a substance-related disorder program licensed  
11 under Code chapter 125.

12 The bill references the definition of "mental health  
13 professional" as defined in Code section 228.1, which includes  
14 persons with at least a master's degree in a mental health  
15 field, including but not limited to psychology, counseling  
16 and guidance, nursing, and social work, or is an advanced  
17 registered nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, or a  
18 physician and surgeon or an osteopathic physician and surgeon,  
19 holds a current Iowa license if practicing in a field covered  
20 by an Iowa licensure law, and a certain amount of postdegree  
21 experience. The term "temporary license in mental health  
22 counseling", as described in Code section 154D.7, is also used  
23 in the bill. The term is used to describe a person who has  
24 met all of the requirements for licensing as a mental health  
25 counselor under Code chapter 154D, except for having completed  
26 the postgraduate supervised clinical experience requirement as  
27 determined by the board of behavioral science.

28 The department is required to amend its contracts for  
29 managed care or prepaid services for mental health or  
30 substance-related disorders under the Medicaid program as in  
31 existence as of the bill's effective date to implement the  
32 requirements of Code section 249A.4, subsection 16, as enacted  
33 by the bill. The amendments are required to take effect on or  
34 before July 1, 2014.

35 The bill takes effect upon enactment.